

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-05  
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R 281801Z DEC 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4016  
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY MBABANE

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 19426

USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAID, ETRD, EEC  
SUBJECT: ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, 14TH SESSION,  
LUSAKA, DECEMBER 8-9.

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 17577, (B) BRUSSELS 18831

1. AS INDICATED REF (A), ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HELD  
ITS SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING IN LUSAKA, DECEMBER 8-9.  
ACCORDING TO JOURNALISTIC AND LOCAL ACP SECRETARIAT  
SOURCES, IN ADDITION TO REVIEWING SUCH INTERNAL ACP  
MATTERS AS PERSONNEL AND BUDGET, MINISTERS: (A) TOOK  
STOCK OF CURRENT RELATIONS WITH EC UNDER LOME CONVENTION;  
(B) ADOPTED A SERIES OF RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING SPECIFIC  
COMMODITIES; AND (C) COMMENTED ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN  
FRAMEWORK OF LOME. DISCUSSION OF RENEGOTIATION OF LOME  
CONVENTION (WHICH EXPIRES 1980) WAS REPORTEDLY LIMITED;  
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ACP REPS DECLARED INTENTION TO RECOMMEND TO MARCH  
MEETING OF EC/ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS THAT OFFICIAL  
NEGOTIATIONS TO RENEW THE CONVENTION BEGIN IN JULY 1978.  
ACP COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS WAS INSTRUCTED TO EXAMINE  
PRIORITIES FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS AND REPORT BACK TO ACP  
MINISTERS.

2. REGARDING EC/ACP RELATIONS, MINISTERS RECALLED EC COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARD ACP'S POSITION IN IMPLEMENTING ITS GSP SCHEME INCLUDING, IF NECESSARY, WITHDRAWAL OF SPECIFIC GSP CONCESSIONS TO NON-ACP COUNTRIES. MINISTERS ALSO REGISTERED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE COMMUNITY'S PROBLEMS IN TEXTILE SECTOR AND PUT THE EC ON WARNING REGARDING POTENTIAL COMMUNITY RESTRICTIONS ON ACP TEXTILE EXPORTS. FINALLY, COMMUNITY WAS ASKED TO MAKE AVAILABLE A SECOND TRANCHE OF REGIONAL PROJECT FUNDS AND EARMARK IT FOR CENTRAL, WESTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA.

3. COMMODITY DISCUSSIONS REPORTEDLY COVERED COTTON, SUGAR, BANANAS AND BEEF. ACP MINISTERS CALLED FOR IMPROVED EC ARRANGEMENTS TO PROMOTE IMPORTS OF THESE PRODUCTS ORIGINATING IN ACP'S. CONCERNING SUGAR, MINISTERS HOPED THAT COMMUNITY WOULD TAKE "EARLY AND PROMPT" ACTION TO ACCEDE TO THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT, WHILE, REGARDING BANANAS, ACP PRODUCERS WERE ENCOURAGED TO ESTABLISH AN EXPORTERS' ASSOCIATION IN COMPETITION WITH MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES, HOPEFULLY WITH EC SUPPORT.

4. IN CONTRAST (OR PERHAPS REACTION) TO EC/ACP CON-  
SULTATIVE ASSEMBLY DECLARATION (REF B) THAT QUESTION  
OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS MUST BE GIVEN "ADEQUATE  
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EXPRESSION" IN REVISED LOME CONVENTION, MAJORITY OF ACP MINISTERS AT LUSAKA REPORTEDLY ARGUED THAT LOME IS AN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT BASED ON PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SIGNATORY STATES. WHILE REAFFIRMING THE ADHERANCE OF ACP STATES TO PRINCIPLE OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AS LAID DOWN IN UN CHARTER, A CONSENSUS WAS REACHED THAT SUCH ISSUES SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN UN AND NOT IN CONTEXT OF LOME CONVENTION. MINISTERS REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED "DEEP CONCERN" ABOUT JUNE 1977 EC COUNCIL RESOLUTION RELATING TO SITUATION IN UGANDA WHICH BROUGHT TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF AID UNDER LOME. THEY EMPHASIZED THAT LOME SHOULD NOT ENCOMPASS MATTERS RELATING TO INTERNAL POLICIES OF SIGNATORY STATES. (COMMENT: THE CONTRAST BETWEEN EC/ACP PARLIAMENTARIANS' DECLARATION AND MAJORITY VIEW EXPRESSED AT LUSAKA, UNDERSCORES THORNINESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION FOR THE FORTHCOMING EC/ACP NEGOTIATIONS ON "LOME II".  
END COMMENT.)

5. MINISTERS ALSO CONDEMNED "NAKED AGGRESSION" IN MOZAMBIQUE BY RHODESIAN FORCES AND APPEALED TO EC MEMBER

STATES HAVING CULTURAL AGREEMENTS WITH SOUTHERN AFRICA  
TO "CANCEL OR SUSPEND" THOSE AGREEMENTS.

6. NEXT SESSION OF ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IS  
SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 1978 IN BRUSSELS. BEGINNING IN  
JANUARY, FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON OF JAMAICA WILL BE  
PRESIDING OFFICER. HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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